



The Centennial Sentinel August / September Edition - 2023

Sisters & Brothers of the COSALC,

We hope that each of you have enjoyed the Centennial Sentinel. We have modified this issue to be both an August / September issue. The NALC'er will be coming out in November so there won't be an issue of the Sentinel. If you have questions about issues in your office or any legislative issues, please reach out to one of the members on the executive board.

1775

In 1775, before the Declaration of Independence was even signed, the Continental Congress turned the Constitutional Post into the Post Office of the United States, whose operations became the first—and for many citizens, the most consequential—function of the new government itself.

In 1782, George Washington, our country's first president and other prominent figures of the time were seriously concerned about the fate of this fledgling nation. Many Americans worried that a democratic republic composed of thirteen states and a vast frontier covering over a million square miles would never survive: the United States was geographically too vast to govern; the customs, opinions and laws of each state were too different; and each state jealously guarded its rights and powers.

Washington was acutely aware of America's precarious situation and saw the development of a national postal service as a way to bind Americans together into a unified nation. In 1782, Postal legislation passed that had given the central government control of both interstate and intrastate posts. But by 1794, Washington's wish was a reality. The Constitution of 1787 had granted Congress specific power "To establish Post Offices and Post Roads," and this authority was defined in 1792 when Congress approved comprehensive postal legislation. Two years later, in 1794, it officially established the Post Office as a permanent part of the federal government and authorized the appointment of this country's **first letter carriers**.

Fast forwarding to recent years, the USPS is by geography and volume the globe's largest postal system, delivering 44% of the world's mail and letter carriers play an essential part in making that happen. You, like all the other mail carriers, are crucial to infrastructure, delivering letters and packages all over the country. Customers would have few shipping options. If letter carriers were taken out of smaller towns, the customer would need to go into "town" to retrieve and send packages. The cost to drive and the time to collect shipments can create a significant hardship many people in rural communities cannot afford. Over the years there have been various legislations that have been proposed and passed or rejected to affect how the Postal

Service runs. We should all keep in mind how important it is to contact our representatives and let them know what postal issues are important to ourselves and our families. Never just taking it for granted that things will never change and always stay the same. This way we can be sure that we will always take care of America just like we have from nearly the beginning.

In Solidarity,
Bryan Sanders "OB"



MDA Summer Camp

This year I was lucky enough to be invited to the MDA camp for kids from the COSALC and Rick Byrne. I had attended in the past with Branch 47 and the COSALC and it was good to see the kids having fun again. That morning I parked in the lower lot and had to walk up to the main house to check in. Hiking up to the check in point, I was experiencing the old postal service aches and pains that we all get ranging from back problems, hip problems knee problems, just to list a few, we all have as carriers.

I like to arrive early to see if any new projects have started and which ones were finished from last time, hoping to talk to some kids. Walking down to the covered picnic area I noticed the kids were doing wheelies in their wheelchairs, laughing having a great time without a care in the world. The counselors that take care of the kids help them keep busy and safe giving them tasks to do. For us, it would be a simple task, but watching the kids, I could see that they were figuring it out adapting with the limitations they have, completing the project with a smile. I happened to be walking up the hill to the offices, seeing Caleb, my new friend, pushing his way up the hill too. I stopped and shook his hand asking how things are going. I was nervous asking Caleb that, feeling I might have said the wrong thing or triggered some sad thoughts but, yes you guessed it, he said I feel "GREAT" then told me he has the best time at camp. I felt better. After saying goodbye, I told him I hope to see him next year he said, me too with a smile.

These kids don't even know they have a disability, they understand that they have limitations but work through any challenge they are given with a smile. I also noticed that there were not any sad faces of any kind but only positive independent kids. Walking back to my truck, with all my pains thinking how lucky I was to be inspired by those kids then realizing that my pains don't hurt that much after all.

Todd Tucker

The Bipartisan Buzz Podcast

We've started a podcast on legislative issues called the Bipartisan Buzz. It is located on Podbean and can also be downloaded on www.cosalc.org. Please check it out and let us know what you think and if there are any topics you want us to cover.

